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20 March 1954

Memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence

Attached find Board opinion on Rhee letter which you requested.

While generally concurring in the capabilities aspect of this view, I feel it under-estimates the intensity of Rhee's feeling that only by precipitating a Third World War (or at least a Pacific War) can his objectives in Korea be achieved. I think he is firmly and possibly correctly of the opinion Chiang-Kai-Shek shares this view.

The situation is too much like that of Vienna 1914 when Bechtold, Conrad, et al, jumped the gun in invading Serbia because in their opinion the time for an all-out struggle between Teuton and Slav had arrived.

In other words I think we should be extremely suspicious and watchful and be as willing and ready to take the necessary drastic actions as we were a while ago.

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Robert Amory, Jr.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

RAJr/dlm

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